



July 23, 2012

Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

On July 10th I wrote a letter on behalf of the 29 Republican governors asking 30 specific questions about the implementation of exchanges and the expansion of Medicaid. The July 13, 2012 letter from Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner was a cordial but vague response from the Obama Administration. With the challenging and detailed work ahead for our nation to address the issues of health care, the letter was wholly inadequate. The response was neither substantive nor serious and appeared to be more of a marketing tool than serious problem solving.

Three years ago, President Obama correctly told Senate Democrats that, “It is not sufficient for us to simply add more people to Medicare or Medicaid ...” and “... we can’t simply put more people into a broken system that doesn’t work.” He was right. Medicaid expansion without Medicaid reform is irresponsible. Nevertheless, that is exactly what the Administration now wants us to do. Unfortunately, the nation’s governors were largely excluded from the politicized process used to pass the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). It is our responsibility to speak out against the flawed policies of PPACA and work towards real solutions to increase access and innovation and lower the cost of health care. We need to return to the original task to halt the corrosive effects of rising health care costs on federal, state, and family budgets.

As you may have seen from the reports from the National Governors Association meeting that I was honored to host in Williamsburg, Virginia, a majority of the nation’s governors are uncertain about the major decisions which must be made on what kinds of exchanges to

implement, whether to expand Medicaid, and how the vast new bureaucracies will be paid for and administered in a nation \$16 trillion in debt.

Therefore we need specific answers, not general platitude. If you don't know the answers, please tell us. Otherwise, please address the many serious questions we have on these issues, and please answer the NGA staff as well on the issues raised on behalf of **ALL** the nation's governors.

Last summer, the Republican Governors Public Policy Committee released *A New Medicaid: A Flexible, Innovative and Accountable Future*, a detailed outline of the problems we face and included 31 specific recommended solutions. They were forwarded to the Congress, the President and you, but have largely been ignored.

In light of the Supreme Court decision, we submitted a lengthy set of questions that must be answered if the Administration expects to implement PPACA nationwide. Let these be the starting point for meaningful discussions between us as partners in our exceptional system of federalism. We do not need yet another tour that promotes PPACA but ignores the realities of implementation of a more than 2000 page bill that few read.

I've taken the liberty of reattaching our list of questions. Specific, written responses to each question would be most beneficial to governors and our staffs. Hopefully, your administration is willing and able to cooperate with the nation's governors by answering each question thoroughly. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. McDonnell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "M".

Governor Bob McDonnell

CC: President Barack Obama
Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner